

**Governor's Council on Disability
Minutes of Informal Meeting
October 20, 2006**

Council Members Present/Participating:

Karen Benson, Dan Card, Edward Duff, Kathleen Fagin, Matthew Hughes, Susan Orton, Dawn Renee Powell

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Joseph Colagiovanni, Michael Esser, Mikael Fredholm, Pat Gallagher, Mary Ellen Jenison, Stephanie Logan, Todd Mayfield, Blair Moran, Sarah Olson, Donna Pavlick, Joe Sartorius, Dr. Hani Soudah, Molly Tallarico

Department Liaisons:

David DeWitt (MO-DOT), Walter Johannpeter (for Dave Mosby – OA), Mike Fester (DSS), Phyllis Launius (Office of State Courts Administrator), Robin Rust (DMH), Carol Thoenen (for Nancie McAnaugh – DHSS)

Staff: Robert Honan, Linda Baker, Donna Borgmeyer, Claudia Browner

Guests: Stephanie Cox, Mary Duff, Martha Fiene, James Gallagher, Dan Mehan

Real Time Captioner: Debbie Reithmeyer

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Card at 9:35 AM. Rob Honan took attendance and announced that we did not have a quorum. The meeting was started as an informal session.

Report from Council Chair Dan Card:

Dan Card announced that Rob Honan has resigned as the Executive Director of the Governor's Council on Disability effective November 3, 2006. He presented Rob with a plaque to recognize his services to the Governor's Council on Disability and thanked him for his excellent work as the director.

There will be a search committee to fill the Executive Director position within the next two to six month. The goal is to have the position filled by December 31, 2006. Members of the search committee are: Karen Benson, Donna Pavlick, Kathleen Fagin, Todd Mayfield, and Renee Powell. The position is a non-merit position and can be announced locally and nationally.

Dan asked the Council members to nominate an interim director within seven (7) days, after which he will announce who the interim director will be. He also encouraged GCD staff to apply for the position.

Report from Executive Director Rob Honan:

Rob Honan summarized his report on the Council staff's activities since the last meeting:

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF)

Rob commended Linda Baker for her work on this year's Missouri Youth Leadership Forum. There were 12 participants this year and the goal for 2007 is to increase participation and improve the curriculum in cooperation with past participants.

Business Leadership Network (BLN)

Rob reported about the Disability Mentoring Day events in Kansas City and St. Louis. In Kansas City, there were 37 attendees and St. Louis had 95 people attending. Both events are considered a success.

Inclusion Awards

Rob reported that the Council has received nineteen nominations for the 2006 Annual Inclusion Awards. The Programs Committee will be working on selecting the winners in each category.

Poster & Journalism Contest

Rob reminded the Council members about the annual Poster & Journalism Contest. Entries in both categories can be submitted until February 1, 2007. This year's theme is: Inclusion: Today and Tomorrow.

Department Liaison Information:

Robin Rust from the Department of Mental Health gave a report about the "Money follows the person rebalancing demonstration" funding opportunity from the US Department of Health and Human Services. The grant will provide an enhanced federal funding match for one year to support people with disabilities to transition from institutional to community settings. The Departments of Mental Health, Health and Senior Services, and Social Services are working together to apply for this grant on behalf of the State of Missouri.

Robin asked the Council for an official letter of support for this grant application. Of the six (6) Council Members in attendance, five (5) voted to support this issue.

Action Item: Send a letter of support on the issue.

Presentation by Dan Mehan, President and CEO, Missouri Chamber of Commerce

Dan Mehan gave a presentation on the activities of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce. He stated that the issue of hiring and promoting people with disabilities in Missouri is a new issue for the Chamber and that this is the first time he has been approached regarding people with disabilities in the workforce. Mr. Mehan stated that the Chamber of Commerce is willing to work together with the GCD to get the word out to employers about the availability of a workforce of people with disabilities. Dan Mehan, Linda Baker, and Sue Orton will meet to write an article on this topic for the monthly Chamber newsletter, which has a circulation of 4,400.

Ed Duff commented that he is working with the Chamber of Commerce in Joplin to set up a town hall meeting regarding the employment of people with disabilities.

Action Item: Set up meeting with Dan Mehan, Linda Baker and Sue Orton.

After a short recess, the meeting attendees headed to the Governor's Mansion for a scheduled tour.

Committee Meetings

The Council members and department liaisons divided up into groups to conduct committee meetings. After the lunch break, the committees gave their reports to the Council.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee (Karen Benson reporting)

Karen started the committee report by thanking Donna Borgmeyer for her work on the legislative priority survey. GCD received 226 responses from the survey from people with disabilities, family members, agency staff, etc. The survey results show the following top six legislative priorities:

1. Assist government in finding ways to increase state revenue in order to fund more services.
2. Work with government to develop an effective replacement system for Medicaid.
3. Address statewide need for accessible transportation.
4. Address statewide need for accessible, affordable housing.
5. Work with government to restore a fair and equitable "Ticket to Work Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities".
6. Develop a grant program to encourage on floor of all new and existing homes to be of universal design in keeping with "Lifetime Homes" concept

The survey results will also be posted on the GCD website under "Legislative Updates".

Programs Committee (Kathleen Fagin reporting)

The GCD has received nineteen nominations for the 2006 Inclusion Awards. The Programs Committee will review all nominations and select the winners by November 15, 2006.

Finance Committee (Rob Honan reporting)

Rob gave an overview of the Council's finances in both the MYLF revolving account and the operating expenses. Dan Card asked Rob to provide a detailed financial statement and budget report before his last day of work. For the MYLF account information, Dan asked Rob to include information about sponsoring agencies and fundraising efforts.

Action Item: Prepare detailed financial statement and budget report for the Council.

Strategic Planning Committee (Kathleen Fagin reporting)

Kathleen discussed the strategic planning document that was included in the meeting packet and stated that most of the tasks were either done or in progress. Those tasks marked with an “N” have not been started.

Kathleen asked the council members and state liaisons to complete an “Individual Commitment Plan” to indicate how they will contribute to/support the GCD over the next year.

Presentation by Linda Baker, Disability Program Specialist (GCD)

Linda gave a presentation about the purpose of the Business Leadership Network in the St. Louis area. She indicated that the Missouri Chamber of Commerce will help the BLN grow. She challenged the Council members to find funding for billboards and radio advertisements to promote hiring people with disabilities.

Old Business

Request for Opinion from Attorney General’s office: Dan Card reported that Joe Colagiovanni has not yet drafted the letter to get the Attorney General’s opinion.

New Business

No new business was brought before the Council.

Public Comment

No public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.

The next Council meeting will be held Friday, January 19, 2007 at 9:30 AM at the Governor’s Office Building in Jefferson City, Room 315.

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Send a letter of support on the “Money follows the person rebalancing demonstration” issue.	Rob Honan/Dan Card
Set up meeting with Dan Mehan, Linda Baker and Sue Orton to write article for Missouri Chamber of Commerce newsletter.	Linda Baker
Prepare detailed financial statement and budget report for the Council	Rob Honan

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive I
11/9/06